

1. (amended) A telecommunications system comprising:

an originating circuit-switched network for providing originating signals in response to voice input[.];

an originating gateway computer for converting said originating signals into packets of digital data,

a terminating gateway computer for converting said digital packets into terminating signals,

a terminating circuit-switched network for providing voice output in response to said terminating signals, and

a packet-switched network for transmitting said digital packets from said originating gateway computer to said terminating gateway computer, at least one of said originating and terminating gateway computers comprising a component for routing said digital packets through said packet-switched network from said originating gateway computer to said terminating gateway computer[.];

wherein said terminating circuit-switched network is capable of providing first return signals to said terminating gateway computer in response to return voice input.

wherein said terminating gateway computer comprises a component for converting said first return signals into return packets of return digital data,

wherein at least one of said originating and terminating gateway computers comprises a component for routing said return packets through said packet-switched network from said terminating gateway computer to said originating gateway computer,

and wherein said originating gateway computer comprises a component for converting said return packets into second return signals.

In claim 4, line 4, please delete "voice".

In claim 9, line 1, please change "claim 8" to ---claim 1---.

11. (amended) A telecommunications system comprising:

an originating network for providing digital packets corresponding to originating signals produced in response to voice input,

a gateway computer for converting said digital packets into terminating signals,

a circuit-switched network for providing voice output in response to said terminating signals, and

a packet-switched network for transmitting said digital packets from said originating network to said gateway computer, at least one of said originating network and said gateway computer comprising a component for routing said digital packets through said packet-switched network from said originating network to said gateway computer[.];

wherein said circuit-switched network is capable of providing first return signals to said gateway computer,

wherein said gateway computer comprises a component for converting said first return signals into packets of return digital date,

wherein at least one of said originating network and said gateway computer comprises a component for routing said return packets through said packet-switched network from said gateway computer to said originating network,

and wherein said originating network comprises a component for converting said return packets into second return signals.

In claim 19, line 1, please change "claim 18" to ---claim 11---.

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~~Sub 53~~ 22. (amended) A telecommunications method comprising steps of:

providing originating digital packets for transmission from an originating network, said originating digital packets corresponding to originating signals produced in response to originating voice input,

transmitting said originating digital packets from said originating network to a gateway computer through a packet-switched network,

converting said originating digital packets into terminating signals for transmission from said gateway computer, [and]

transmitting said terminating signals through a circuit-switched network for providing terminating voice output in response to said terminating signals[.]

providing first return signals to said gateway computer in response to return voice input,

converting said first return signals into return digital packets of return digital data for transmission from said gateway computer,

transmitting said return digital packets through said packet-switched network from said gateway computer to said originating network,

and converting said return digital packets into second return signals.

Please add the following additional claims:

23. A telecommunications method according to claim 22 comprising the further step of providing return voice output in response to said second return signals.

24. A telecommunication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said originating circuit-switched network includes a component for providing return voice output in response to said second return signals.